(d) the action taken against the officers involved therein: and

(e) in what manner the said land is being utilized at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It is true that a contract with private individual for 20 years was entered into by the Managing Committee of Railway Club, but it is not true that it's usage was free of charge.

(b) The contract permitted the contractor the discretion to decide the rates to be charged by him for the private function from non-members, whereas Club was to get some rent alongwith facility of subsidized food items for Club members and officers at Rest House. Since the contract was overwhelmingly in favour of the contractor, an investigation was carried out in the matter.

(c) Contract agreement with the contractor was executed on 18.5.02 and the premises was being used by him since then.

(d) Two officers were issued major penalty charge sheet and one Senior Administrative Grade officer was issued minor penalty charge sheet for the lapses in the matter.

(e) Possession of the premises was taken over by Estate Officer on 12.3.2005 and the concerned bungalow is kept sealed at present.

Condition of Minto Road Railway Colony

†2172. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the meeting of the M.Ps. Consultative Committee of his Ministry held on 4th November, 2004 the M.Ps were informed that railway quarters are being repaired regularly;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Delhi based Minto Road Railway Residential Colony is in dilapidated condition;

(c) if so, how many times officers visited the said colony; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue instructions for repairing the said colony properly?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quarters in Minto Road Railway Colony are more than 50 years old but are being maintained in satisfactory living condition.

(c) Seventeen inspections of this colony have been done at Officer's level in the last one year. In addition Colony Care Committee headed by the Officer in charge and involving staff representatives has reviewed the maintenance in 5 meetings during the year.

(d) Repairs to the colony are already being done as per requirement.

Crane scam

†2173. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of media report regarding a crane scam related to his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto alongwith steps taken or being taken to check such scams in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Media report had appeared in the Hindi newspaper 'The Navbharat Times' on 18th, 19th and 20th July' 2005 under the heading 'Crane Scam-I, II and III'.

(c) No action is contemplated on the above media report since on levelling of allegations regarding irregularities in the procurement of the above cranes in Parliament, the then Hon'ble Minister of Railways Kum. Mamta Banerjee in 2000 had entrusted the detailed investigation into the entire affair to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Moreover the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi where a writ petition on the above procurement was filed, had disposed off the same pending CBI

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.